

10/510381  
DT04 Rec'd PCT/PTO 05 OCT 2004

Please amend the application filed on even date herewith prior to proceeding with its examination.

IN THE CLAIMS

5

Please cancel claims 1-25, inclusive, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 26-53 as follows:

10

26. (New) A tactile alarm system for use in environments having a plurality of audible and/or visual alarms, the tactile alarm system including:

15

a plurality of detectors receiving input representative of a plurality of predetermined physical properties, each detector having an output to actuate one or more of the plurality of audible and/or visual alarms when one or more of the detected physical properties falls outside a predetermined range, the alarm system being characterized by a tactile alarm connected to the skin of a person and being in communication with the output of one or more detectors, the tactile alarm being actuated in response to selected ones of the plurality of predetermined physical properties falling outside their respective predetermined ranges; and

20

wherein the tactile alarm is divided into segments wherein each segment corresponds to a different predetermined property to provide a tactile alarm signal to the person when an activation signal provided in one segment corresponds to a particular predetermined property falling outside its predetermined range.

25

27. A tactile alarm system for use in environments having a plurality of audible and/or visual alarms, the tactile alarm system including:

a plurality of detectors receiving input representative of a plurality of predetermined physical properties, each detector having an output to actuate one or more of the plurality of audible and/or visual alarms when one or more of the detected physical

properties falls outside a predetermined range, the alarm system being characterized by a tactile alarm connected to the skin of a person and being in communication with the output of one or more detectors, the tactile alarm being actuated in response to selected ones of the plurality of predetermined physical properties falling outside their respective predetermined ranges; and

wherein the tactile alarm provides pulses that are coded such that a particular coding corresponds to a predetermined physical property and wherein coding of the pulses varies in intensity or spatially proportionally with a predetermined property as it falls outside its predetermined range.

10        28.     (New) A tactile alarm system according to claims 26 or 27 wherein the output of each detector is communicated to the tactile alarm by radio frequency radiation.

15        29.     (New) A tactile alarm system according to claims 26 or 27 having a monitor disposed intermediate the output of each detector and the tactile alarm and plurality of audible and/or visual alarms, the monitor processing the input from each detector and providing an activation signal to the one or more audible and/or visual alarms and the tactile alarm.

30.     (New) A tactile alarm system according to claims 26 or 27 wherein the tactile alarm is in the form of a strip having a receiver for receiving the signals to activate the tactile alarm.

20        31.     (New) A tactile alarm system according to claims 26 or 27, wherein the tactile alarm provides stimulation, being selected from the group consisting of heat or cold sensations, electrical stimulation, and vibration stimulation.

32. (New) A tactile alarm system according to claims 26 or 27, wherein the tactile alarm provides pulses that are coded by modulating their intensity or amplitude, or modulating their frequency.

33. (New) A tactile alarm system according to claims 26 or 27, wherein the  
5 tactile alarm is connected to a body part of a person.

34. (New) An audible alarm system according to claim 33, wherein the body part is chosen from the group consisting of fingers, wrists, forearms, chests, foreheads, necks, shoulders, backs, legs and feet.

35. (New) The tactile alarm system according to claims 26 or 27, including a  
10 self tester which provides an indication of the operability of the tactile alarm system.

36. (New) A tactile alarm system according to claims 26 or 27, including a failure alert which is actuated in response to a failure in the tactile alarm system to activate the tactile alarm in response to a predetermined property falling outside its predetermined range.

15 37. (New) A tactile alarm system according to claims 26 or 27, wherein the plurality of audible and/or visual alarms are deactivated so that only the tactile alarm is capable of being activated.

38. (New) A tactile alarm system according to claims 26 or 27, wherein the predetermined physical properties include temperature, blood pressure, mass, length  
20 measurements, ECG data, oxymetry data, movement, electrical current or voltage, velocity, acceleration, ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, pressure, time or optical intensity.

39. (New) A tactile alarm system according to claims 26 or 27, including a plurality of tactile alarms such that each tactile alarm is disposed on a different person and

wherein each tactile alarm is configured to activate in response to a predetermined one or more of the physical properties measured by the detectors of interest to each person.

40. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claims 26 or 27, the method including the steps of:

5           detecting a plurality of predetermined physical properties and generating detector signals being indicative of the properties;

              communicating the detector signals to a plurality of audible and/or visual alarms such that when one or more of the physical properties falls outside a predetermined range, one or more of the audible and/or visual alarms is activated;

10          disposing a tactile alarm on a person wherein the tactile alarm is in communication with the detector signals and wherein the tactile alarm is activated in response to a selected one or more of the predetermined physical properties falling outside their predetermined range; and

15          dividing the tactile alarm into a plurality of segments wherein each segment corresponds to a different property such that a tactile alarm signal is provided to the person from a respective segment when a corresponding property falls outside its predetermined range.

41. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claims 26 or 27, the method including the steps of:

20          detecting a plurality of predetermined physical properties and generating detector signals being indicative of the properties;

              communicating the detector signals to a plurality of audible and/or visual alarms such that when one or more of the physical properties falls outside a predetermined range, one or more of the audible and/or visual alarms is activated;

disposing a tactile alarm on a person wherein the tactile alarm is in communication with the detector signals and wherein the tactile alarm is activated in response to a selected one or more of the predetermined physical properties falling outside their predetermined range;

5           wherein each tactile alarm provides a coded tactile stimulus in response to a corresponding property falling outside its predetermined range, the stimulus being coded depending on the property including the step of applying a tactile alarm pulse that varies in intensity or spatially proportionally with the predetermined property as it falls outside its predetermined range.

10         42. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claim 40, including the step of communicating the detector signals by radio frequency radiation.

43. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claim 42 including the steps of:

15           disposing a monitor intermediate the detectors and the plurality of audible and/or visual alarms;  
                processing the detector signals at the monitor; and  
                providing one or more of the plurality of audible and/or visual alarms and the tactile alarm with an alarm activation signal.

20         44. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claim 43 wherein the tactile alarm signal is selected from the group comprising heat or cold sensations, electrical stimulation and vibration stimulation.

45. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claim 44 including the step of coding the tactile alarm signal by modulating the signal intensity or frequency.

46. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claim 5 45, including the step of disposing the tactile alarm on the body of a person from the group comprising fingers, wrists, forearms, chests, foreheads, necks, shoulders, backs, legs and feet.

47. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claim 46 wherein the physical properties may include temperature, blood pressure, mass, length 10 measurements, ECG data, oxymetry data, movement, electrical current or voltage, velocity, acceleration, ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, pressure, time or optical intensity.

48. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claim 41, including the step of communicating the detector signals by radio frequency 15 radiation.

49. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claim 48 including the steps of:

disposing a monitor intermediate the detectors and the plurality of audible and/or visual alarms;

20 processing the detector signals at the monitor; and providing one or more of the plurality of audible and/or visual alarms and the tactile alarm with an alarm activation signal.

50. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claim 49 wherein the tactile alarm signal is selected from the group comprising heat or cold sensations, electrical stimulation and vibration stimulation.

51. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claim 50 including the step of coding the tactile alarm signal by modulating the signal intensity or frequency.

52. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claim 51, including the step of disposing the tactile alarm on the body of a person from the group comprising fingers, wrists, forearms, chests, foreheads, necks, shoulders, backs, legs 10 and feet.

53. (New) A method of employing a tactile alarm system according to claim 52, wherein the physical properties may include temperature, blood pressure, mass, length measurements, ECG data, oxymetry data, movement, electrical current or voltage, velocity, acceleration, ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, pressure, time or optical 15 intensity.